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March 7, 2006

Michael R. Turner, Chairman
Subcommittee on Federalism and the Census
Committee on Government Reform
B-349A Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515-6143

Dear Mr. Turner:

This is in response to your request for written testimony in advance of the March 13 hearing in Bridgeport on Brownfields redevelopment in Connecticut.

The WorkPlace, Inc., Southwestern Connecticut's Workforce Development Board, has participated in three EPA grants to provide occupational training in environmental remediation as part of Brownfields projects.

Detailed outcomes of these projects – completed in Bridgeport and the Naugatuck Valley, currently underway in Stamford – are included, below. Overall, these Brownfields training projects have been among the most effective in our experience – they provide intensive and highly relevant training, resulting in a high rate of employment for graduates. They launch people into jobs with good pay and career potential.

As you consider potential improvements which would encourage Brownfields redevelopment, we would like to see continued support for training as part of the package. The scope of training could be expanded to cover advanced topics and a broader range of environmental fields. Connecticut could develop an industry initiative focused on Brownfields redevelopment and environmental controls, and a broader training agenda would facilitate investment in workforce development for this industry.

This approach would lend itself well to the creation of an "Environmental Health & Safety Academy", working in partnership with employers to provide continuing education and skills development through incumbent worker training. This would provide a vehicle for workers to keep up with the latest technology and techniques in this growing field.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide input.

Sincerely,

Joseph M. Carbone
President and Chief Executive Officer

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The following sections provide of the outcomes (summary statistics) of Brownfields programs operated by The WorkPlace, Inc. and the goals of the newest Brownfields grant:

1. Bridgeport Brownfields Training Pilot Project
2. Naugatuck Valley Brownfields Training Project
3. Combined Bridgeport and Naugatuck Valley Brownfields Training Projects
4. Goals of the Stamford Brownfields Project.

Section I – Bridgeport Brownfields Training Pilot Project

Amount of Award: \$200,000 - Leveraged Funds: \$36,000 - # of Training Cycles - 3
Participants Entering Training – 49
Participants Completed Training – 44 (Training Completion Rate – 90%)
Participants Entering Employment – 38 (Entered Employment Rate of those who entered training – 78%;
Entered Employment Rate of those that completed training – 86%)
Participants returning to school for advanced training – 2
Average Hourly Rate - \$13.46 (all with benefits)

Section II – Naugatuck Valley Brownfields Training Project

Amount of Award: \$200,000 - Leveraged Funds: \$42,000 - # of Training Cycles - 3
Participants Entering Training – 54
Participants Completed Training – 46 (Training Completion Rate – 85%)
Participants Entering Employment – 40 (Entered Employment Rate of those who entered training – 74%;
Entered Employment Rate of those that completed training – 87%)
Participants returning to school for advanced training – 1
Average Hourly Rate - \$14.16 (all with benefits)

Section III – Combined Bridgeport and Naugatuck Valley Brownfields Training Projects

Amount of Award - \$400,000 - Leveraged Funds: \$78,000 - # of Training Cycles - 6
Participants Entering Training – 103
Participants Completed Training – 90 (Training Completion Rate – 87%)
Participants Entering Employment – 78 (Entered Employment Rate of those who entered training – 76%;
Entered Employment Rate of those that completed training – 87%)
Participants returning to school for advanced training – 3
Average Hourly Rate - \$13.81(all with benefits)

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Section IV – Goals of the Stamford Brownfields Project

Amount of Award - \$141,746 - Leveraged Funds: \$57,500 - # of Training Cycles - 2

Participants Entering Training – 40

Participants Completed Training – 36 (Training Completion Rate – 90%)

Participants Entering Employment – 33 (Entered Employment Rate of those who entered training – 83%;

Entered Employment Rate of those that completed training – 92%)

Average Hourly Rate - \$15.00(all with benefits)

Other Considerations:

1. Competitive Bid;
2. Trainer is Woman Owned Business;
3. Development of Curriculum in consultation with Businesses doing Brownfields remediation;
4. Leveraged use of WIA services;
5. Leveraged funding from corporate community for:
 - a) CDL Training with Hazardous Waste Transport Provision
 - b) Licensing Fees
 - c) Medical Testing
 - d) Other (Clothing, work shoes, etc.)
6. Serving most in need residents living in Brownfields areas;
7. Liaison with Municipal Boards, Community Based Organizations, Faith Based Organizations, local companies involved in Brownfields remediation;
8. Advanced Education as a goal and positive outcome;
9. Opportunities for continued education for those obtaining employment after training
10. Establishment of local academy.

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The WorkPlace, Inc.
Southwestern Connecticut's Regional Workforce Development Board

Since taking leadership in 1996, Joseph M. Carbone has expanded the practice of workforce development to include coordination among job training and education organizations and addressing the region's economic health. As Connecticut's leading workforce development board, The WorkPlace, Inc. serves a 20-town region from Beacon Falls to Greenwich. In its most recent program year, The WorkPlace system served more than 20,000 people and more than 800 businesses.

In the private sector, government, and non-profit arenas, Mr. Carbone has been instrumental in developing complex projects including legislative agendas and proposals to enhance business and reduce corporate financial liability. Mr. Carbone's previous position was Manager of Government Relations for both Textron and the Allied Signal Corporation. Mr. Carbone is a graduate of Quinnipiac University in Hamden, CT and lives in New Haven, CT.

March 2006

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